

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4539

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 5922

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PO

SUBJ: MELO ANTUNES VISIT

REF: LISBON 5917

1. I UNDERSTAND THAT FONMIN MELO ANTUNES'S MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY IS CURRENTLY SCHEDULED FOR FRIDAY AFTERNOON IN WASHINGTON.

2. IN THIS CONNECTION, IF POSSIBLE, I THINK IT WOULD BE VERY VALUABLE IF THE PRESIDENT COULD RECEIVE MELO ANTUNES. LATTER IS A KEY FIGURE HERE AND I THINK PRESIDENT WOULD FIND IT WORTH WHILE TO SIZE HIM UP.

3. SUBJECTS FOR A POSSIBLE PRESIDENTIAL MEETING COULD INCLUDE: GENERAL REVIEW OF PORTUGUESE SITUATION; US-PORTUGUESE ECONOMIC COOPERATION; ANGOLAN SITUATION AND REFUGEE AIRLIFT; EVOLUTION OF DEMOCRATIC PROCESS; NATO.

4. REFTTEL POINTS TO DEEPENING PESSIMISM WITHIN AZEVEDO GOVERNMENT. PRESIDENTIAL MEETING COULD SERVE TO BOLSTER AZEVEDO'S MORALE AND SUPPORT. I SUGGEST BOTH SECRETARY AND PRESIDENT, IF MEETING TAKES PLACE, SEND AZEVEDO MESSAGES OF ENCOURAGEMENT THROUGH MELO ANTUNES.
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